

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 HEW-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 291214Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2459

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINS IS

SUBJECT: HEALTH INSURANCE LAW SHELVED

REF: TEL AVIV 5101

1. MINISTERS AND KNESSET MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT COALITION MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER JULY 26 TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSED UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE LAW (SEE REFTEL). IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING INSISTENCE OF BOTH THE NRP AND THE ILP THAT THEY COULD NOT VOTE FOR THE LAW UNLESS IT WERE DRASTICALLY AMENDED, IT WAS AGREED TO RETURN THE DRAFT TO THE KNESSET PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE WHERE IT IS TO BE REVIEWED AND AMENDED. THE KNESSET IS SCHEDULED TO ADJOURN ON JULY 30 AND SINCE THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIKELY TO REVIVE A BILL WHICH WOULD THREATEN THE ALIGNMENT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS IN 1977, THE MATTER APPEARS UNLIKELY TO ARISE BEFORE THE END OF 1977 OR EARLY 1978.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ADVISOR ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS, BARUCH LEVY, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTIRELY UNHAPPY OVER THIS TURN OF EVENTS. DESPITE THE

GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO THE PROPOSED LAW,
ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION WOULD HAVE ADDED AN
ESTIMATED IL 1 BILLION TO THE
BUDGET BY 1978 WHEN, ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT
TEXT, ALL NEW BENEFITS WOULD HAVE COME INTO FORCE,
AND SMALLER BUT SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIES WOULD
HAVE HAD TO BE FURNISHED FOR THE REST OF 1976 AND
1977. CLEARLY, SEPARATING THE KUPAT HOLIM SICK FUND
FROM THE HISTADRUT IS NOT THE KIND OF OPERATION ANY
LABOR-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT COULD OR WOULD WISH TO
UNDERTAKE, NO MATTER WHAT THE MERIT OF SUCH A PROPOSAL.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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